AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

Moisture in Corn Fodder.

The excellence of cornstalks as feed for milch cows is more largely due than is commonly supposed to the water they This is also true of the same feed when put up as ensilage. Of course a cow can drink what she needs, but she is not tempted to drink so much, especially if the water be cold, as she is obliged to take with her feed when given in the form of ensilage. Really dry cornstalks, as they will be after being repeatedly frozen in winter and not exposed to rain or snow, are not good for much for cows. Hence they are better fed early in the winter, reserving hay until toward spring. In putting up cornstalks there is no disadvantage in having them moist enough so that they will heat a little. Make tall, narrow stacks of them around a pole, and they will keep moist and the stalk will be less harsh and sharp than they would be if kept where they would be entirely dry. If much damp, then care should be taken not to put into close mows or large stacks. A little heating does no harm, but too much may easily leave a blackened mass fit only for manure and not worth much even for that. -American Cuitiva or.

Iron for Fruit Trees.

An exchange furnishes an account of the successful experiment of one of its correspondents who burned old iron about the roots of trees, which resulted in a great improvement in their growth and in a greatly increased crop of fruit. We have no doubt of the correctness of the statement. It reminds us of an experiment with similar result made many years ago when the theory was extensiveness advocated that electricity aided vegetable growth and the grapevine planted at the foot of the recently erected lightning rod made twice the growth of the vines remote from it, and the rows of beans planted over the buried wire with upward points at the ends grew more vigorously than beans elsewhere.

It was found that the increased growth of the vine was entire y the result of the deep bed of mellow earth made in setting the foot of the rod deep into the soil, and the beans en oyed the benefit of a similar treatment by the mellow trench for the wire. The pieces of old iron, refuse stovepipes, worn horseshoes, cast-off iron kettles, etc., could not be buried under the trees without digging the soil deeply and thoroughly to the great benefit of the roots. Otherwise the iron could be of no benefit .- Country Gentleman.

Planting Potatoes.

Our practice in planting potatoes, writes a New Jersey correspondent of the Country Gentleman, is to drop them in the hill or drill, and after a quantity has been planted to cover them with a This spring we planted about bushel of seed before noon and left them uncovered. After noon we continued planting, and shortly after covered the seed with the plough. A part of those planted before noon failed to come up, and some of those that did were spindling. When harvested, for the same number of drills there were seven bushels where left longest uncovered, and twel: e bushels where the seed was soon covered after planting. We planted thirty bushels of seed, but there was none left uncovered so long as the first mentioned, and the whole planting came up even less than the first

So it would seem the potato seed should be covered at the time of planting, as some do with their feet, or, if with the plough, as soon after planting as possible. The sun at the time was very strong and few clouds, so the seed must have dried up, which was most likely the cause of the dimininished yet we have left the seed uncovered for some time before without its being damaged. Most likely on these occasions it was for a shorter time and the weather must have been cool and cloudy.

Character of Cream. Cream is the fatty portion of the milk which rises to the top when the milk stands at rest. The difference in the specific gravity of cream and milk necessarily causes this separation; indeed to some extent this separation is partially made in the reservoirs of the udder, for it is a well-established fact, that the first drawn milk is less rich in cream, or fat, than that drawn at the end of the milk-

The cream rises more rapidly under certain circumstances, and when the milk is set in deep pails, in cold water, at a temperature of forty-five degrees, when all the cream is raised through eighteen or twenty inches of milk in twelve hours; while at sixty degrees it will require thirty hours to rise completely through three inches of milk set in shallow pans. Also when the milk is diluted with water. the cream rises more quickly, because the milk becomes less adherent. The low temperature of forty-five degrees reduces the milk to almost its maximum density, which is at thirty-nine degrees; hence the cream is comparatively lighter than at a Aryan brain in the tropical East. Al-higher temperature. This fact is taken though our branch of the family cannot advantage of in the use of the deep pails boast of having risen so early in the and low temperature for setting milk for morning of civilization, we can at least eream; an innovation which has been of the greatest value in butter making. amount of work done since we did get The cream raised in this manner is, however, more fluid, and has more milk mixed with it than that raised in shallow pans; but this is also an advantage, because it is then in the best condition in respect of | tent?"-Pittsburg Dispatch. fluidity for the churn .- American Agri

Horse-Stable Floors. The long-debated question as to the best material for stable-floors is being revived. A correspondent of one of our exchanges gives his experience as follows: "A clay floor was adhered to by some for years, and such was the earnestness of its advocates and the many argutry it. In three of four months I had the p anks back again, being satisfied of the disidvantages of clay for this purpose. Our present floor of plank is in-clined a little from front to rear, where the usual gutter is made to carry off the liquid voidings. We do not believe in sand, coal-ashes, sawdust, asphaltum, flags, cobble-stones, or any of these modern devices to injure horses. far we have have never noticed that this little inclination was in anyway injurious; and we doubt whether the wooden grating that we frequently see pla ed over the planking that some use would be advisable on the ground that the anithis movable grating, or second floor, can keep horses in a good, sound, healthy condition for five to seven years. as we have done on a carefully constructed plank flooring, inclining a little to the in I there will be filled with moisture, an old and bartagens custom ... Duluth

which will accessarily result in scrat his, Jour act.

quarter-crack, etc. If the clay is lev elled off and beaten down daily, it will make no difference. Some time ago we inspected a number of stables where many horses were kept, and we encountered only one which was composed of anything but wood. Of course there will be new things-inventions -springing up, which are to meet and overcome every objection, and there will be some to adopt them, but we shall be satisfied with what we have until there is something produced about which there will be no mistake.'

Profit in Parsnips.

With the exception of the onion, the parsnip is probably one of our oldest garden vegetable that is cultivated for the portion that is produced under the surface of the ground. It was highly prized by the ancient Romans, who beieved that it possessed valuable medicinal qualities in addition to those that made it desirable as an article of food. They raised it extensively in Italy, and introduced its culture into all the countries of Europe and they conquered and colonized. Before the potato was brought from America parsnips were very generally eaten with meat and fish. continent of Europe it took the place of other vegetables in soup.

The introduction of the potato and the

improvements made in the turnip and beet caused parsnips to occupy an in-ferior place in the list of edible vegetables. Very few attempts have been made in any country to improve its character, to produce distinct varieties or to increase its productiveness. Enterprising seedmen bring out a new variety of beets and turnips almost every year, but the parsn'p is so little used that no one seems to think that it would pay to make experiments with a view to improv-

Failures in the potato crop have become so frequent in large sections of this country that it is desirable to find some substitute for it. Parsnips take the place of common or sweet potatoes better than almost any vegetable. Boiled and served with milk or boiled, cut in slices and fried, they are relished by almost all per-Parsnips are easy to digest and are quite nutritious. As food for animals and fowls they are deserving of far more attention than they receive. On islands in the English Channel they are extensively raised for feeding to dairy

Many believe that the excellence of the milk of the cows raised on these islands is large'y due to the parsnips they eat. In France parsnips are used for fattening fowl. They are boiled or steamed and mashed, when bran or meal and cheap fats are mixed with them. That pork can be made from parsnips cheaper than from potatoes seems certain. They must be boiled to produce the best results, and should be fed in connection with meal or some other substance which will assist in forming fat.

Parsnips are very productive. The average yield is five hundled bushels per The seed germinates quicker than does the seed of carrots and beets. The plants grow rapidly and require but little cultivation. Aside from the operation of thinning, all the work can be done with a narrow cultivator drawn by a horse. Parsnips do not suffer from drought to the extent that pota'oes, beets and turnip; do. Like carrots, the portion of use for food is entirely below the surface of the ground. They are shaded by their leaves, which keep the soil moist. snips grow continuously from the time the seed germinates till the ground is frozen in the fall. There are insects that appear to be created on purpose to devour the foliage of the potato and turnips and to puncture the bulbs of onions, but an insect intended to do injury to the parsnip is yet to be called into being. s the only vegetable that injured by being fro en, and the only one that can remain all winter in the soil where it grew without receiving injury. -New York Herald.

The Modern Brahman's Aims in Life.

The modern Brahman, however, is but sadly degenerated representative of his intellectual forefathers. His aim in life now seems only to live as easily as possible on the ignorance, superstition and veneration of the lower castes. There are but few of them deeply read in their ancient theology; so that they have become little better than "blind leaders of the blind." Thus it has come to pass that a body of men numbering not more than a few hundred thousand, have held over 200,000,000 of their fellow countrymen for thirty centuries in the terrors of system of sacerdotal legislation, enforcing its claims to the last limit of endurance at the price of the utter ignorance. degradation and slavery of their nation. Sir Alfred Lyall in a recent report says: 'The religion of the non-Mohammedan population of India is a tangled jungle of disorderly superstitions, ghosts and demons, demi-gods and deified saints, household gods, local gods, tribal gods, universal gods, with their countless shrines and temples, and the din of their discordant rites; deities who abhor a fly's death; those who still delight in human sacrifices. Such is the result of the evolution of the Indo-Germanic or though our branch of the family cannot afford to congratulate ourselves on the up. It is a curious query, with the aid of the experiences of our Hindu brethren. to ask, will 2,000 years find our descendants degenerated to an analogous ex-

Reviving a Frightful Indian Custom. A Duluth pine-land explorer, who has recently returned from a trip through Northern Michigan and Wiscousin, reports a curious custom among the Indians which has been recently resurrected. While at a place called "Birt-teat-serus," the Indian meaning being where the caribou die, near the Portage lake, he ments brought to bear upon it, that I came across the bodies of three Indian was induced some twenty years ago to maidens hanging from the branches of a tree. An Indian guide and hunter then told him the remarkable story of the events in connection with these young squaws. The Indians of Birt-teat-serus, fearing a removal to the White Earth reservation, decided to try and evoke the blessing and aid of the Great Spirit, and so brought forth this old custom, which has long been forgot-ten. Three of the prettiest Indian girls in the band of Chippewas were then invited to a feast, and after receiving the attentions and adoration of all assembled were invited to take a draught of liquid prepared by the men of the tribe. Without any knowledge of the deadly nature mal would be more com ortable, while of the liquid they drank and in a few minutes were beyond human a sistance. might lead to accidents. When a person | For three days and nights the Indians then he d a weird and exciting service over the corpses and then buried them with all pomp and ceremony. Indian Agent Gregory is investigating the affair rear, it is just as well to be satisfied with and it is extremely probable that someit. Do what one will, holes will be dug thing will be done to punish the by the stamping of the feet in the clay, muracrers of these innocent victims of

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS.

Sadirons.

Wash sadirons each week before putting them on to heat, there will then be no danger of clothes being soiled in the ironing. The sta ch is very apt to stick to them, and unless washed off carefully each week, is almost sure to soil damp pieces, even if the irons are rubbed before using them. Remove the irons when the ironing is done, and never let them stand on the stove where steam and grease will be sure to settle on them. Then do not put them to heat long before they are wanted, as exposure to high heat is apt to roughen and injure them.

How to Make Candy.

Molasses Candy-Two cups of molasses, one cup of sugar, one teaspoonful of vinegar, piece of butter size of a walnut. Boil from 15 to 20 minutes.

Taffy-Two cups of white sugar, three quarters of a cup of molasses, butter size of an egg, one-half cup of milk, one teaspoonful of vanilla. Test in cold water. Nut Candy-Two thirds of a cup of molasses, two-thirds of a cup of sugar, two cups of cold water, small piece of butter; any kind of nut added when

Butter Scotch—One cup of molasses, one cup of sugar, one-half a cup of butter; mix together. Boil until it hardens when dropped into cold water.

Peanut Candy-Two cups of sugar, 11 cups of water, half a cup of molasses, bit of butter, two cups of peanut meats added when boiled sufficiently.

Vinegar Candy-One quart of sugar, one pint of water, four tablespoonfuls of vinegar, butter size of an egg, teaspoonful of vanilla. Boil 20 minutes and stretch it.

Chocolate Caramels-Boil together for 20 minutes one cup of molas-es, one cup of sugar, one cup of chocolate and half a cup of milk. When nearly done, add a piece of butter the size of an egg;flavor with vanilla. Mark off into squares when partly ccol.

Corn Candy-Pop the corn and roll it until it is quite fine. Boil some molasses, not as long as for candy, and pour over the corn while hot, mix it well, then turn out upon a buttered board, and roll it until thin and even; cut into cakes .-Boston Herald.

Recipes.

Por Corn Balls.—Popping corn is a pleasant winter amusement for the fam-ily circle, and if properly treated the snowy corn is very toothsome. To make it into balls, to one gallon of popcorn take half a pint of molasses or sugar. put it into a skillet or kettle, and let it boil up once; pour it over the corn: grease your hands with sweet butter and make the corn into balls, whatever size you like.

RIBBON CAKE. -Two cups of sugar, one third cup of butter, one cup of milk, three cups of flour, three eggs, one teaspoonful of cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful of soda, a little salt. Add to one-third of the mixture one cup of raisins stoned and chopped, one-half cup of citron cut fine, one-half cup of currants, one teaspoonful of all kinds of spice, one-half cup of molasses and the same of flour. Bake in three tins of the same size, and put together with jelly, frosting, or the white of an egg between the

APPLE CUSTARD PIE.-A pleasant hange from ordinary apple pie is the following: Stew sour juicy apples soft, in as little water as possible without burning, press them through a colander, and to each pint of the strained sauce add the well beaten yolks of three eggs, one tailespoonful of butter, or more if liked rich, teacupful of sugar, and nutmeg to If eggs are scarce two will answer. Bake with undercrust only. Make a meringue of the two whites, spread it over the top when done, and place it in the oven again to brown.

POTATO PIE. - When fruits are scarce, an excellent pie can be made of our much-used vegetable, the potato. Press a pint of mashed potato through a colander, add to it a pint of milk, half a teacupful butter creamed with a coffee cupful sugar, the well-beaten yolks of 3 eggs, a teaspoonful nutmeg, a pinch each of salt and mace, and lastly the juice and grated rind of one lemon. Mix well and bake with one crust like a custard pie. When done, beat the whites of the 3 eggs stiff, add 3 tablespoonfuls sugar, and a little flavoring; return it to the oven and bake until it becomes a delicate

COOKED CELERY.-Celery has long been used for salads or eaten raw, but to our taste it is very much better cooked; indeed, it thus becomes one of the most appetizing dishes prepared for our table. Cut it in small cross sections, using nearly the entire stalk and roots, rejecting only the very green parts. Cook it in but little water, so that when very tender the water will have boiled nearly away; then add milk sufficient for a nice gravy, season to taste with salt and pepper, re butter and flour to a smooth paste, and add sufficient to make it of a creamy consistency. When the flour is scalded it is

HICKORY NUT CARE. - A quart of nuts carefully cracked and picked, and making then about a full coffee cup; three eggs, a half cup of butter, one and a half cups of sugar, a cup of sweet milk and three cups of flour is the materia needed to make the cake, which should be baked in a moderate oven until a clean straw would pierce through the thickest portion and come out clean. Cream the sugar and butter by beating with a silver fork; beat the yolks and whites of the eggs separately, the latter stiff enough to cut; add the milk to the butter and sugar, then stir in the eggs, then the flour, well sifted, and lastly the nuts; mix quickly, pour into a large cake dish, so that the dough is only an inch or a little over from the bottom, and place immediately in the oven. Each ingredient must be mixed thoroughly before another one is added. If prepared flour is not used, add to the plain flour before sifting a heaping teaspoonful of baking powder.

The Coffee Tree.

Coffee is not a bush, as is popularly supposed, but a tree, which, if permitted to grow, will shoot up thirty or forty feet. When properly cultivated it is nipped off about six feet from the ground, thus presenting a surface from which the berries are easily picked and allowing the main stem to gain greater strength. The tall shrubs somewhat resemble the magnolias with their shining, dark green leaves, but the starry, snow white flowers remind one of orange blossoms in all but fragrance. The phenomenon is constantly displayed of buds, blossoms, green and ripe fruit, all on the same stem; but though always flowering and developing fru t, the true harvest season is from April to November. When fully matured the berries are dark red. looking precisely like a common variety of sea bean. They turn to a dull brown after having been picked, and become black by dry ng.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Pride costs more than hunger, this and cold.

Even the worst people have some left in them. Disraeli's maxim: Ignorance neve tles a question.

Truth is the foundation of all kn edge, and the cement of all societi Little minds are tamed and su by misfortune, but great minds rise a

mendation, a good heart is a letter credit.

So long as we set our affections things above, things below cannot co

rupt us. As large a demand is made on ou faith by nature, as can be made

miracles. Many men claim to be firm in principles, when really they are or stinate in their prejudices. Frugal and industrious

friendly to the established gov as the idle and expensive are de Letters of introduction are no successful to get a man into soo more than eloquent obituaries

man into heaven. No human being can come world without increasing or d the sum total of human hap only of the present, but of

quent age of humanity. Do to-day's duty, fight totion, and do not weaken yourself by looking forwar which you cannot see, and o derstand if you saw them.

Turkish Cemeter

According to the Koran, is the owner of his grave in and the objectionable syster in rotation is unknown to mans; and in Constantinople and in Scutari, the room of cemeteries is almost as extensi covered by dwellings. Wi years it has been found nec order to open roads that have needed, to curtail and ever some of the cemeteries; but it an express order from the Sulta made the "ulemas" utter the b gots. The cypress is pre-e the funeral tree. Each tomb has its own. And Turkish cemeter come gloomy forests in time, whi part to ce tain Oriental landscap aspect singularly stiff and somber. If upon the sea shore that these funer forests are found in the greatest abu dance. The trees, being nourished by the soil fertilized by human remains, reach a prod gious size and height. The largest and most celebrated of these cometeries is that of Scutari, upon the Asiatic coast of the Bosphorus; it extends over an area more than six miles square. The tombstones are in the shape of an oval, wider at the top than at the bottom, and surmounted with a turban or fez, the form of which, varying greatly, indicates the rank of the deceased. A gilt inscription in Turkish characters, cut in rellef on a blue background, gives the name and enumerates the virtues of the deceased and implores divine mercy in his behalf. These stones are perpendicular, sometimes leaning very much. In the latter case a hole is dug at the base of the tomb, intended to catch rain for the little birds that come to quench their thirst. The dead are not buried very deep, and it is strange that the custom does not cause more sickness than it does. A large proportion of the epidemics of dysentery and typhoid fever that invade the low quarters of Constantinople can be traced to this custom. The proximity of the cadavers to the top of the ground produces, during the summer nights, particularly in swamy and damp cemeteries, a myriad of phosphorescent lights, which dance and flit around the tombs; and these myriad sparks of fire, while inspiring the poets, also frighten the children.

Strange Hieroglyphics.

On Porter Creek, in Sonoma County, Cal., on a large boulder of horn-blend syenite, are to be seen hieroglyphic etchings simi ar to those found in Arizona and Nevada. They are generally oblong circles or ovals. Some of them contain crosses. A half mile to the eastward, near a high ledge of serpentine rock, are found some ancient workings-the remains of a shaft, as though prospecting had been done at some time long past. These workings and the hieroglyphics were seen by the first settlers, and being similar to those found elsewhere, must belong to the same pre-historic race. Specular copper ore is found in limited quantities in the immediate vicinity, and the excavations may have been made by the searchers after copper. Frank A. Madeira, now a resident of Santa Cruz, spent one winter some years ago on the spot. During that time he found several relics of the ancient inhabitants. The half of a gigant'e stone mortar, much larger than those in use at the time of the incursion of the Spaniards and Americans, was found; also a pestle of syenite containing phallic signs, similar to those found at Halfmoon Bay, now in the pos-session of the State Mineralogical Bureau. Several similar mortars were also found. -New York Graphic.

To Prevent Cold Feet.

Gradually lift yourself up on the tips of the toes, so as to put all the tendons of the foot at full strain, and remain standing on the points of the toes as long as possible, then gradually come to the natural position. Repeating this several times, by the amount of work the tips of the toes are made to do in sustaining the body's weight, a sufficient and lively circulation is set up. - Washington Star.

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